5. The Clothing and Footwear Industry.

295 433 The clothing and footwear industry shows in recent years, among all Lithuanian industrial branches, after the textile industry, the most vigorous growth. Its production in 1937 more than quadrupled in comparison with 1929. To this industrial branch in the past year pertained 8.6% of the industrial workers; 5.3% of the gross value; and 6.9% of the net value of Lithuania's industrial output, whereas its share in the aggregate engine horse-power amounted only to 0.7%. The clothing and footwear industry has therefore the weakest degree of mechanization of all industrial branches of Lithuania.

Its structural development since 1927 is shown in the following table:

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	1927		1931			1937		
	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H. P.	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H. P.
Total	139	1 607	157	1 994	482	157	2 707	832
Including:								
Output of Woven Goods	20	328	31	669	143	42	1 158	348
Footwear Industry	53	737	43	629	185	48	782	277
Underwear and other Branches	66	542	83	696	114	67	767	207

On the basis of these data one may conclude that while the footwear industry ten years ago represented the leading branch, to-day the woven goods supply (hosiery and knitted wares) heads the list. The number of undertakings of this special branch has doubled since 1927, and the number of its staff almost quadrupled. The total number of workers employed in the production of underwear and in the tailoring and hat industry has since 1927 risen by 43%; and that of the staffs of the footwear industry during the same period only 6%. It would, however, be a mistake to draw therefrom conclusions concerning the development of the scope of production of the two groups. Footwear output, thanks to the construction of its own factories, has grown more vigorously than that of underwear.

Quantity data for the period under review are available only for leather footwear output; they give the following series (in 1000 pairs):

1931	1932	1934	1935	1936	1937
260.4	220.6	270.4	337.2	361.5	532.2

These figures show that footwear production has doubled in round figures since 1931. If, however, we take into consideration the improvement of quality and the introduction of new classes, we may estimate the growth of production at approximately two and a half times, which also the development of the value amounts cited below attests.

Since there are no quantity data available for woven goods production and underwear supply (with the exception of 1937), we must content ourselves with value amounts for the sake of comparison of the development of separate branches of the clothing and footwear industry. Expressed in the prices of 1929, on the basis of the price indices of the Lietuvos Bankas Bulletin for woven goods and of the Central Statistical Bureau for boots and shoes, the following figures (in 1000 litas) afford the relevant production data:

	1931	1932	1934	1935	1936	1937
Woven goods	7 217	7 952	11 633	13 374	17 388	20 956
Footwear	6 204	5 080	7 054	9 108	11 660	15 079
Underwear, etc.	2 742	2 529	3 507	3 764	4 271	5 404

These data show:

(a) That the woven goods output also was not checked in its advance during the crisis years and reveals the most vigorous growth, i. e. in 1937 by 190.4% in comparison with 1931;

(b) That the footwear production and the underwear output in 1932 suffered a setback, and that the production growth of the former during the period under review amounted to 143.0% and of the latter to 97.1%.

The average production index of the clothing and footwear industry (appraised according to gross values) adapted to the basis year 1931, gives the following figures:

1931	1932	1934	1935	1936	1937
100.0	96.3	137.3	162.4	206.2	256.4

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The development of the woven goods and footwear industry was successfully promoted by the tariff policy, i. e. especially by the Laws of October 1931 and August 1934. The woven goods production to-day entirely covers the demand of the home market, and on that account also the imports of foreign goods, which in 1928 still represented 178.3 tons, by 1937 had sunk to only 7.3 tons. The imports of leather footwear, thanks to the consolidation of native production, have also declined, although not by a long way to the same extent. In 1928, they amounted to 36.1 tons; in 1937, on the other hand, to 19.4 tons.

4. The Metal and Machinery Industry.

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The number of workers employed in the metal and machinery industry in 1937 amounted to 2 792 or 8.8% of all the industrial workers of Lithuania. Its share in relation to the total of the engine horse-power amounted to 3.7%; its share in relation to the gross production value to 5.2%; and in relation to the net production value to 6.4%. This industrial branch was in the pre-war Lithuania more highly developed than to-day. In 1913, in the present political territory of Lithuania approximately 4 000 workers were employed in the metal industry. The diminution of the scope of production is due to the curtailment of the outlet for export goods. Nevertheless, during the last two years one can again discern a rapid development tempo

The comparative figures on the changes in structure since 1927 are shown as follows:

	1927			1931		1937		
	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H. P.	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H. P.
Total	94	1 895	95	1 863	3 134	103	2 792	4 677
Including:								
Metal Industry	11	547	20	665		32	1 190	
Machinery Industry and Means of Transport Production	16	528	19	722	2 781	14	1 059	4 271
Mechanical Workshops and Sheet Metal Supply	62	772	51	422		46	414	
Electro-Technical Concerns	5	48	5	34	353	10	109	406